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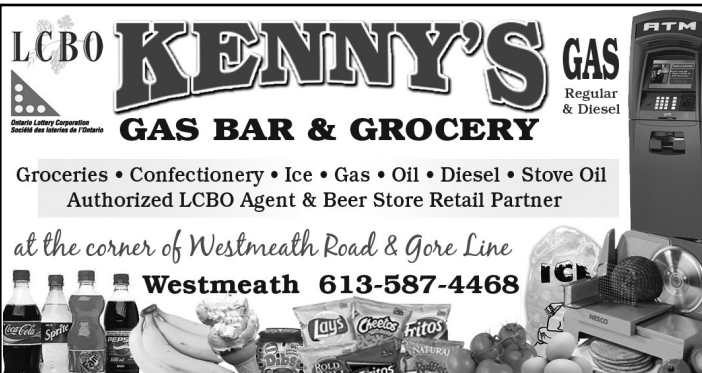
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WESTMEATH & DISTRICT
RECREATION ASSOCIATION



UPCOMING
EVENTS

Fridays - Darts - 7:00 pm
\$5.00 - bar open
bring your darts

April 17th - Happy Easter!

April 26th - WDRA Annual General
Meeting

MINOR BALL IS AROUND THE CORNER

Please contact the WDRA at wdra@nrtco.net
or call Beth at 613-587-4294 if you are inter-
ested in playing or coaching.

We are just gauging if there is
interest to try and have a league



The WDRA is hosting a rustic tray making class with Linda Mills, at the Westmeath Hall, 119 Synton Street. The class will run from approximately 1:00 - 3:00 pm. on Sunday, May 1st. You will build a tray, stain it, put handles on, as well as put a saying in the middle. Some examples of what you could put on it are Home, Gather, Give Thanks, Together or Love for \$30.00 or the same tray with a custom monogram for \$35.00. Registration deadline is the April 24th. Space is limited, so please register early. For more information or to register please contact wdra@nrtco.net or call Beth at 613 587-4294. Bring some friends and or family and come out for a great afternoon making something for yourself or a gift, maybe even for Mother's Day.

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

To rent Community Centre Hall :
613-587-4559/613-587-4838 or email wdra@nrtco.net
Ice bookings: arenas@whitewaterregion.ca;
or call Township office M-F, 8:30 am - 4 pm, ask for Debbie

For Newsletter inquiries:
Email: wdranewsletter@nrtco.net or call 613-587-4438
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ENTRIES IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH
www.westmeathtoday.ca

Westmeath & District Recreation Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Several positions are up for election:

President, Vice President, Secretary,

Bar Manager, Sports/Programming Coordinator, Members at Large Positions

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with our many activities. Even if you cannot commit to being on the board we would love to have you take the lead on an activity you would like to see happen in our community, or volunteer with an event. If you are interested please contact Beth at 613-587-4294 or send a message to wdra@nrtco.net.

Thank You

What a great day for our annual Westmeath Winter Carnival. It takes so many volunteers to help to make this day a success. There are so many people to thank, Brenda, Heather and all the kitchen crew, Marie for the bar plus other duties, Anne for looking after the games and crafts for our little ones, Laura and Brandon and all their helpers for the ice fishing derby, Dave for organizing the scavenger hunt, Darren for his BBQ lunch crew, Calvin for the supply of wood for Lumber Jack contest, Cailen for running the events and supplying the cross cut saw and bales of straw, Jerry and crew for looking after the ice, time keepers Bruce, Peter, Bryan and partner, Natalie and John, Donavon and Don, and Kevin and our referees. Special thank you to those business who donated prizes Wilderness Tours and Kenny's Store. I know we are missing people, so a special thank you to everyone who helped out in some way. Thank you also to all who came out and supported our many activities from breakfast and lunch, to the fishing derby, lumberjack contest, scavenger hunt and our mixed hockey tournament. We truly appreciate your support.

We would also like to send out a big thank you to everyone who helped to make our St. Patrick's Day dinner once again a success. We served 113 adult meals and 1 child's meal. A huge thank you once again to our kitchen helpers, Brenda, Leatrice, Louise, Lynn, Marie and Patty. Thank you also to Kevin and Peter who worked at the door, and to all those who donated food. Finally a big thank you to those who have supported this fundraiser by once again purchasing meals. We truly appreciate it.

Congratulations to Jeff Ethier who won the 50/50 and took home \$95.00.

THE LA PASSE AND WESTMEATH GIRLS WIN WITH RINGETTE IN THE MID 1980'S & 90'S!!

Part Two of a Three Part Series

We saw in Part One how the persistence of my three daughters, who were not prepared to accept second best, led to a more balanced sharing of Dad's recreation time between their brother and them. This resulted in the introduction of Ringette for "Girls," to the La Passe/Westmeath area and eventually to many of the Valley Towns. This new and exciting "girls ice sport" enjoyed immediate support and popularity and continues to be played in Renfrew County to this day!

In Part One, we left off with the recruitment of a few volunteers willing to help introduce this new sport for girls, to the local community. In the winter months of 1984, with coaching help from the Ottawa Ringette Group, the local coaching volunteers were successful in training and recruiting enough girls from local communities to pique their interest and commitment to form a fledgling Ringette League for the 1984-85 season. We enjoyed our first season of organized House League Ringette with teams from Westmeath, Beachburg, Cobden and Shawville. It turned out to be a season of 'learning as you go,' for the girls, parents, coaches, referees, rink attendants and spectators! And it caught on! In the next few years Pembroke, Renfrew and Arnprior came on board, with Renfrew quickly becoming the nucleus for Ringette in the Valley with their banner team – *The Renfrew Radicals* about 1985-86. By 1987-88 we had a full-fledged Upper Ottawa Valley Ringette Association (UOVRA), with Nancy White from Westmeath, as its Founding First President. A Pembroke coach shared that he remembers how Westmeath would win handily over the Pembroke teams in those first few years!

In those days, there were seven different categories of teams from Bunnies to Ladies, 5 years and up, with an age spread of two years between each Team Level. For starters, the Communities concentrated on forming teams in the middle age levels, Novice and Belles Teams 12 to 17 yrs. of age, where the most interest was at the time. We encouraged all ages of girls to show up at our practices. We allowed the teams to add younger promising players to the next level, who demonstrated adequate skills, in order to make up the complement of about 10-12 players with a maximum of 18 players per team. That was permissible, in the day, at the House League Level, which in Westmeath, came under the umbrella of the WDRA. Also, if another Ringette Community in our League was trying to form a team at a particular age level, but did not have enough girls, we encouraged the girls from other Ringette Communities, not already on a team, to join the other Community Teams in formation. The principle was that – **Ringette is a Recreational/Participatory Sport for Girls, not a Competitive Community Rivalry!** Many of the girls took advantage of this community player sharing and, as a result, went on to play at advanced levels for various Competitive UOVR Teams!

As our player roster grew, so did our volunteer coaching staff. A few coaches were certified at the Provincial Level. Others coached under the umbrella of the WDRA Community House League. Some of the Coaches that come to mind and carried the game into the 90's in Westmeath were: Nancy White, Murray DeRuiter, Bernie Ethier, Brian Dupuis, Jodie Kitson, Tim Watson, Vince Gervais, Louise Norlock, Lyle Dupuis, Ron Nicolai, Gord Laverty, Christie Laverty, Robert Graham, Jan Tobio, often on the bench and others. Jeanne Timm and Sally Ethier did the bookings.

Getting referees for Ringette was a real challenge! Because it was a new game in town, nobody had any experience with "Hockey's Sister Sport." Of course, none of the girls or their mothers even had experience refereeing or coaching hockey in those days. Nor was the "macho sports mentality" at the time very supportive of the "boys" refereeing a "girls" ice game, especially among young rough and tough competitive hockey players, with sites on the NHL! However, with some coaxing from their sisters, parents and hockey coaches, we were able to get enough boys and an occasional girl to cover the first seasons. Again, the Ottawa Ringette Club came through for us and included us in their ongoing Ringette Referees and Coaches Training Sessions. Some of the early volunteers that received their Ringette Referees Qualifications were: Greg Spotswood, Derek England, Greg Gervais, Leanna Gervais, Tim Watson, Murray DeRuiter, Albert Norlock, Vince Gervais. Some others, who provided Community Level Refereeing, were Faye Campbell, Durell Chaput, Bernie Ethier-WDRA Sports Director, Terry Ethier - Head Referee and others.

The young male referees often referred to the game of Ringette as the "Click and Clack" or "Hack & Slash" game! The "Click" was the sound resulting from the stabbing of the Ring on the ice. However, if a girl missed the ring her stick would often slide up the shaft of the opponents stick, making a "Clack Sound" and giving the Referee the impression that it was a "Hack & Slash" on the pads. Of course, this sound and motion was easily picked up by the referees and often called as a penalty and turned into a "boy-girl" or sometimes a "brother-sister" challenge for the referees! Referees were not always available and we coaches occasionally had to both referee and coach from the ice! .../2



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Ringette Cont'd



WESTMEATH RINGETTE JUNIOR/BELLES 1988-89

Back Row: Vince Gervais, Paula Spotswood, Tracey O'Brien

Angie Dupuis, Louise Norlock, Tim Watson

Front Row: Valerie Wassing, Samantha Gervais,

Jenny Marleau, Leanna Gervais,

Christine Gervais

Missing: Mary Lynn Ethier, Paula Kenny, Shannon Smith,

Kristy Laverty, Jody Kitson, Karen Gervais

Please feel free to contact me (Vince Gervais) by phone (613-587-4838)

or E-Mail vgervais@nrtco.net.

Another full Newsletter, so stay tuned for the 3rd period of Ringette in May!

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FOR HALL BOOKINGS

please call Marg Gervais

at 613-587-4838



Whitewater Seniors APRIL 2022

Seniors from all Whitewater Township communities are welcome to attend any event listed. Limited seats available. Require transportation? If so, be sure to ask when you register.

Tue April 5th
Cobden
St Paul's Anglican Church Hall
27 Crawford Street
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Presenter TBD
No cost

Wed April 6th
Westmeath
Westmeath Recreation Centre
119 Synton Street
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Presenter TBD
No cost

Mon April 11th
Beachburg
Whitewater Seniors
1765 Beachburg Road
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Presenter TBD
No cost

Tue April 19th
Cobden
St Paul's Anglican Church Hall
27 Crawford Street
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Abbey Lane Magic
No cost

A dry March, a wet April and a cool May fill barn and cellar and bring much hay.

Wed April 20th
Haley Station
Haley United Church
760 Calvin Road
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Presenter TBD
No cost

Wed April 27th
Westmeath
Westmeath Recreation Centre
119 Synton Street
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Presenter TBD
No cost

Fri April 29th
Beachburg United Church
1744 Beachburg Road
Drop-in 11:30am—1:00pm
United Church Soup & Sandwich (cost TBD)
WWR Seniors Presenter TBD
**no registration required*

Fri April 29th
Haley Station
Haley United Church
760 Calvin Road
1:00—3:00pm
Snacks and Refreshments
Presenter TBD
No cost



REGISTRATION REQUIRED (unless otherwise stated).

Call Whitewater Seniors at 1-833-582-7004 or email seniors@whitewaterregion.ca

Carefor

TBD = To be determined.